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24. (Five times amended) A purified ~~soluble~~ H4-1BB polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises the extracellular domain of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the extracellular domain <sup>binds H4-1BB</sup> ~~which is capable of specifically binding a cell membrane ligand for~~ SEQ ID NO:2.

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27. (Twice amended) A soluble H4-1BB protein produced by

a) introducing an expression vector into an appropriate host cell to yield a transfected host cell, wherein the expression vector comprises a DNA molecule encoding the extracellular domain of H4-1BB having SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the extracellular domain which is capable of specifically binding a cell membrane ligand for SEQ ID NO:2;

b) recovering the soluble protein from the host cell.

28. (Twice amended) The soluble H4-1BB protein of claim 27 wherein the DNA molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:1, [SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6,] ~~SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:8~~, or a combination thereof].

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30. (Twice amended) The soluble H4-1BB protein of claim 24 which is encoded by a DNA molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1/[SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6,] ~~SEQ ID NO:7, or SEQ ID NO:8~~, or a combination thereof].

### Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims, in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, is respectfully requested. Claims 5-6, 24, 27-28, and 30 are amended. The pending claims are claims 5-6, 24 and 26-31.

Amended claims 5 and 27 are supported by originally-filed claims 5 and 7; and page 4, line 34-page 5, line 2 and page 16, lines 23-24 of the specification.

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